



Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission
Tuesday, June 24, 2014 Meeting Minutes
Hennepin County Central Library

NCEC member attendees: Matthew Dobratz, Jeffrey Strand, Ishmael Israel, Kirk Roggensack, Matt Barthelemy, Doron Clark, Andy Hortillosa, Brittany Lewis, Kenya McKnight, Carol Pass and Sacido Shaie.

NCEC members excused: Denis Houle, Henry Jimenez, Francisco Segovia and Tessa Wetjen.

NCEC members absent:

Commission staff: David Rubedor, Howard Blin, Cheyenne Brodeen and Robert Thompson

1. Public Comment:

Peter Rickmyer was present and gave public comment prior to the meeting. He suggested that neighborhood organizations create committees on disabilities and recruit members who are disabled. He suggested that the NCEC keep track of what neighborhoods have committees for disabled persons, he is not suggesting that it be mandated, but rather see what neighborhoods are interested in having them.

2. Introduction (Action):

The meeting was called to order at 5:10pm with Israel in the Chair.

Agenda: The agenda was approved with the change that Item 3, Recognition of Outgoing Members was removed from the agenda and Item 7, NCR Report was moved in its place. Strand moves to approve the agenda with the suggested changes, Clark seconds the motion. Motion approved.

3. NCR Report

A. Neighborhood Guidelines and Policies:

Summary: Robert Thompson, Neighborhood Support Manager discussed the Community Participation Program and what staff does to ensure neighborhood organizations are in compliance with the program's guidelines. He also shared that each neighborhood is unique and not all issues and solutions are the same for each neighborhood. It takes a great deal of complex problem solving when working with the 71 neighborhood organizations.

Discussion:

- Hortillosa asked that if a neighborhood organization receives an audit, is the audit only financial or do you audit their practices as well?
 - Staff responded that they do both types of audits and that neighborhood organizations are required to submit agreed upon procedures.
- McKnight asked if financial reports, bylaws and minutes should be available to the general public.

- Staff responded that there isn't a specific requirements that requires that information be posted online, but it is highly encouraged. There was one situation where the minutes were posted online, but hard to find.

McKnight also asked what type of support is given to residents who may have issues with the organization or board. Often times NCR staff may have the relationship with the organization staff and board, how do you work with the resident?

- Staff responded that really what NCR staff does is try to get to the underlying issue that the resident may have and what outcome they would like to have happen, that solves the problem in many cases.

What is the role of the NCEC commissioner when a problem is brought to their attention?

- Staff responded that any neighborhood issues should be directed to Robert Thompson.
- Barthelmy stated that he thinks the neighborhood structure is important for increasing civic engagement. Some neighborhoods do a good job and others do not. If some neighborhoods are having problems with participation, what are some benchmarks that you've proposed.
 - Staff responded that its really hard to set benchmarks because each neighborhood is so unique. Neighborhoods monthly meetings may not be very diverse, but the neighborhood could be doing other things to ensure there is diverse input.

Commissioners will ask any remaining questions during agenda item 8, New Business.

4. Executive Committee Reports (Informational and Action):

Chair's Report:

Secretary Report:

A. Minutes:

Motion: Commissioner Strand moves to approve the minutes, Clark seconds the motion. Motion carried.

- B. Attendance Report:** Commissioner Strand reported on attendance. 10 members are in attendance. Commissioners Houle, Jimenez, Segovia and Wetjen are excused. Dobratz, Strand and Barthelmy need to leave early. Quorum was present. Noted that MPRB seat remains vacant for the June meeting.

5. NRP Policy Board Report

A. SUN Neighborhoods Priority Plan

Summary: On March 18th the NRP Policy Board approved the Neighborhood Priority Plan from the Southside United Neighborhood (SUN). The SUN neighborhoods are a group of seven south Minneapolis neighborhoods that are working together on neighborhood

priorities. This priority plan is being presented as an example of the work neighborhoods are doing to identify priorities.

Becky Timm from Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association and Luke Stultz from Bancroft Neighborhood Association attended and reviewed the plan and background information with the NCEC. Strand thanked the attendees for providing significant additional background information on the SUN Neighborhoods NPP process.

Discussion:

- Roggensack mentioned that he thinks this is a great example of the direction in which neighborhoods are going.
- Hortillosa asked if there is one large event that all 7 neighborhoods are involved in.
 - Becky Timm responded that there isn't 1 event. Each neighborhood keeps their own identity by having their individual events.
- Lewis asked how the group is sure that they are bringing the sentiment from their board? How does the group reach consensus?
 - Becky Timm responded that the group did a lot of work on relationship building at the start of the process and each of the boards did a lot of community outreach to develop the priorities.
- Pass asked what this has done for overall participation, has it increased?
 - Becky Timm responded that the SUN group doesn't increase participation, that is still done at each individual neighborhood.
- Strand thanked Shirley Yeomen from Standish Ericsson for attending the NRP Policy Board meeting.

B. Neighborhood Relief Fund

Summary: Howard Blin, Community Engagemenet Manager explained that at the June 17th NRP Policy Board meeting the board approved the relief fund for a 45 day review period. NRP Chair Strand reported on the last Policy Board meeting and action items being requested.

C. Extension of terms of NCEC representatives to the NRP Policy Board

Motion: McKnight moves to extend the terms of the current NCEC representatives to the NRP Policy Board terms to July 2014, Shaie seconds the motion. Motion approved.

6. Committee and Task Force Reports (Informational and Action):

A. Committee of the Whole (Action):

1. Blueprint for Equitable Engagement:

Summary: Commissioner Lewis, representing the Blueprint for Equity Steering Committee presented that they presented the new plan for Blueprint for Equitable Engagemenet to the City Council, during the presentation there was lots of lively

discussion. The council likes the new plan and is really looking for outcomes. Lewis also reminded the commission to sign up for the focus groups and that there is space for other commissioners to join the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement Steering committee.

There was also a discussion about the joint NCEC and HECE meetings. These meetings are set for August, however the group has not met recently. It was also determined that it does not make sense to join this group with the Equity Steering Committee.

B. One Minneapolis Fund Committee:

Summary: Hortillosa shared that the Council approved the NCEC's recommendations for funding. Some issues and questions arose from the council, however it did not ultimately impact the decision. Hortillosa also share that Commissioner Wetjen did an outstanding job representing the One Minneapolis Fund Committee and on process and recommendations.

C. City Department Engagement Task Force :

Clark reported on the recent work of the Committee. The Committee will bring forward in the future a manual and set of principles for department engagement activities. Recent Public Works Department projects will be used as test cases for the work.

7. New Business:

Questions from Item 3 for Robert Thompson:

Lewis asked what the process was for members of the NCEC to be notified when issues come up with neighborhood organizations in that member's area of the city. There should be better communication on these matters with members. She also stated that the City's capital long range improvement process should be more open. Unlike the St. Paul process, it is not possible for neighborhoods or residents to propose projects.

Israel stated that question regarding potential grievances with neighborhoods should be referred to NCR staff, but the members in that area should be consulted.

Pass stated she wants to see the guidelines which are more precise on what the responsibilities of neighborhoods are.

Roggensack asked who at NCR should be contacted if a resident has a problem with a neighborhood organization.

Clark stated that neighborhoods have varying capacity to comply with program requirements. He would prefer that rather than a black and white assessment of whether

neighborhoods are in or out of compliance, they should be assessed on whether they are on the path to compliance.

Adjourn:

The June 24, 2014 meeting was adjourned by Chair Israel at 7:11p.m.